ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

August 20, 1969

Mr. Ray Byrne
701 N. Negley Avenue
Pittsburgh, Penna. 15206

Dear Ray:

It was great seeing you at the convention in Philadelphia.

I told you that you were going to receive a letter requesting such detail as you have with respect to you seeing Paul Franklin at the First National Bank, in Denver, during the Denver A.N.A. convention some years ago, and having him show you an attache case full of Pioneer Gold, including a brilliant proof of an 1853 U.S.Assay Office $20 piece, and some bars. Apparently he showed them to you voluntarily, without knowing who you were.

Will you give me the name of the person who was with you and any other details you can recollect?

Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/atb

November 22, 1966

Mr. Ray Byrne
701 N. Negley Avenue
Pittsburgh, Penna. 15206

Dear Ray:

It was a pleasure to meet the members of the Western Pennsylvania Society and to spend the evening with them.

Thank you, so much, for giving me your book on coins of Jamaica, which I read with great care and interest on the way back on the aircraft.

I enjoyed seeing your exhibit and talking to you and hope that our paths will cross much more often in the future.

I certainly hope that you will be in a position to publish much more detail concerning counterfeit counterstamps not only on Jamaican items, but on other items of the West Indies.

My very kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/atb

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

March 6, 1970

Mr. Ray Byrne
701 N. Negley Avenue
Pittsburgh, Penna. 15206

Dear Mr. Byrne:

I certainly enjoy reading your continued writings on the West Indies subject and thought that the item in the March Numismatist was particularly well developed. Keep up the good work.

I would like to acquire a couple of pieces of the counterstamped coinage of Jamaica and wonder if you have any duplicates which are available. If you have a piece with a genuine counterstamp and the same one with a counterfeit counterstamp that would be most appealing to me, too. Naturally, either an exchange or purchase is perfectly satisfactory and I thought you could be helpful to me in this endeavor.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

L.M. 297, A.N.A., F.R.N.S., A.N.S., F.B.N.J., N.L.G., A.N.E., O.I.N., S.I.N., A.V.A.

.....FROM THE DESK OF

RAY BYRNE

701 NO. NEGLEY AVE

PITTSBURGH, PENNA. 15206

(412) 441-0738

Mar. 9, 1970

Dear Eric:

I hasten to reply to your inquiry for Jamaica c/s (a nobele and a rogue, so to speak) and am sorry to say that I have no duplicates of this series. I never went in for buying each and every piece I saw listed as I only wished single examples of each.

I did, however purchase all Danish West Indies so that I could have a goodly representation of the rogues since we were then closing in on the 'fabricator' out of Cuba and have since stopped this influx of rogues.

I believe I do have a single example of Jamaica (legitimate) c/s in smaller value of either ½ or 1 reale size at the bank. Will look this up and if so advise.

Am searching for a nice 1851 Britannia Groat, 4d. This could be an exchange if you wish or:
I also need a 1-Quarto, 1835 and a 4-Quartos, 1834 of the Philippines (Coppers) Only these dates wanted, or, any Octavos or quartos of Philippines dated, 1771-1809.

Best wishes and regards,

Ray

(WEST INDIAN & CARIBBEAN ISLANDS COINS & TOKENS)
(RESEARCH NUMISMATIST)

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

February 1, 1971

Mr. Ray Byrne
701 No. Negley Avenue
Pittsburgh, Penna. 15206

Dear Ray:

I need your expert opinion on the three enclosed coins and hope you will favor me with it.

The 1696 Wm. III shilling countermarked with FRVII and crown insignia was sold by Schulman as Lot 867 in the 1/26/71 sale and was consigned by Browder. I paid $50 subject to return privilege if not genuine. It seems to be close to your illustration on the right at the bottom of page 562 of your article in 1967. You said there are no fakes known on English pieces. Is the counterstamp good, bad, or what in your opinion?

When I was in Jamaica, recently, I obtained as a gift out of a coin accumulation assembled in the island, a copper coin the size of an English copper penny counterstamped with a large C. What is this?

At the same time, when I was in Jamaica, I obtained as a gift out of the same coin accumulation an 1803 Chas. IV Spanish 2 real counterstamped with a Crown in an oval and a square frame with a center dot. What have I found? This is a genuine piece, I am sure, and has a double struck counterstamp of the Crown.

I will be appreciative of your thoughts and please return by Certified Mail, without insurance, using the enclosed envelope.

Kindest regards, and thanks,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/xtb
atb

RAY BYRNE
701 NORTH NEGLEY AVENUE
PITTSBURGH, PA. 15206
PHONE: 412-441-0700

2/4/71

Dear Eric:

Just leaving for few days off but want to get these back to you pronto.

1) Lot 867 Schulman ~~2 R..~~ (Shilling, Wm III, 1696 is perfectly ok. I had previously checked this one. (Can't say same for all of Borrelers consignments however. The C/s is good

2/ The 2 R. Charles IIII, Madrid Mint, 1803 bearing 2-C/s - 1) Tic-Tac-Toe for Trinidad province of Cuba & the other is Crowned G.P. for Azores This piece is also A-okay

3/ I do not make any attribution for C/s of letter "C" on worn copper piece. But would limit my opinion to agree with yours as it was from accumulation of coins secured in Jamaica. I feel it might be wharf londers check.

All the best & see you in Wash. DC if not before here in Pgh on the archeology "cut piece" findings here at Carnegie Museum

Ray

(WEST INDIAN & CARIBBEAN ISLANDS COINS & TOKENS)

O.T.A.C.S.: L.M. 297, A.N.A.: A.N.S.: F.R.N.S.: N.L.G.: O.I.N.: A.N.E.: T.A.M.S.: A.V.A.: B.N.S.

RAY BYRNE
701 NORTH NEGLEY AVENUE
PITTSBURGH, PA. 15206

PHONE: 412 - 441-0738

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE,
SECTION OF COINS & MEDALS,
CARNEGIE MUSEUM,
PITTSBURGH, PA.

CHAIRMAN,
U. S. ASSAY COMMISSION,
BY PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT
1969

April 12, 1972

Mr. Eric Newman,
6450 Cecil Ave.,
St. Louis 5, Mo.

Dear Eric:

Following your trip- to the A.N.S. Meeting in New York where you talked with (my loveable boss) William W. Woodside regarding the archeological findgs in Western Pennsylvania at various sites, which material included quite a few cut pieces of silver and copper coins (unmarked or counterstamped), Bill asked that I contact Mr. "Jake" Grim at Ligonier and set up a convenient time for both yourself and the people there at the "Diggings" for you and I to take a looksee and period of interrogation.

Mr. Grim suggested any week during the Month of May with exceptions of weekends and stated that a Wednesday would be the best day of the week for all (their group) concerned.

This leaves you any alternative you can arrange for visiting with me at the site of May 3,10,17,24 or the 31st.

Please do let me know when possible if any of the above days can be worked into your very busy schedule and I will so advise Mr. Grim.

I ernestly believe, Eric, that the finds in this area will prove to be most interesting as the cut pieces have all been sent along to us here at the Carnegie Museum, where I have photographed and weighed each one and a list of them has been retained for our records. In my own humble opinion, the pieces were cut by the military groups bivouacked here (both British and French) so that the military could use the pieces for local purchases (and incidentally for poker games among themselves—?).

At any rate I will anxiously await word from you on your possible arrangements to visit with us.

Warmest personal regards,

Cordially,
Ray
Ray

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

May 5, 1972

Mr. Ray Byrne
701 North Negley Avenue
Pittsburgh, Penna. 15206

Dear Ray:

I have not forgotten your letter of April 12, 1972 asking about meeting at the "diggings".

Wednesday is about the worst day that could be selected. It sounds very exciting to see these items but my schedule is such that I cannot as yet select a day for sure as I have a trial in California, a lecture in St. Louis, birthdays, and what-have-you. Is there no way of selecting another day of the week?

Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/atb

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

September 6, 1972

Mr. Ray Byrne, NLG
701 North Negley Avenue
Pittsburgh, Penna. 15206

Dear Ray:

I respect the feelings of Lee Martin as expressed in his letter of August 29, 1972. I do feel, however, that we can go along with the A. N. A. action as we have no practical mechanism for a hearing of the matter on the merits. An organization does not have to decide on a guilty or not guilty basis. There is many a situation where guilt beyond a reasonable doubt cannot be proven but undesirability for membership is obvious.

I do agree that Mr. Apfelbaum should be contacted so that he may feel free to submit evidence of what took place before the A. N. A. Board and any other matters he feels may be pertinent to the decision of the N. L. G. Each organization cannot hold hearings on the same matter.

My thinking has nothing to do with the Apfelbaum matter and relates to the problem in general.

I have not sent this letter out to other than Lee Martin and if you wish to do so I have no objection.

Sincerely yours,

EPN/atb

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

CC:
Mr. Lee Martin

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

March 21, 1973

Mr. Ray Byrne
701 N. Negley Avenue
Pittsburgh, Penna. 15206

Dear Ray:

In a previous issue of the NEWSLETTER, I saw my name might be on the panel for Boston. Was I supposed to respond and say "yes"? Or was I supposed to be up for a vote?

In any event, I'll do it if it is necessary.

Sincerely yours,

EPN/atb

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

RAY BYRNE, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
701 NO. NEGLEY AVENUE
PITTSBURGH, PENNA. 15206
(412) 441-0738

March 22, 1973

Dear Eric:

Thanks for your nice note. The Newsletter had made suggestions for the "Expert Panel" for the NLG Writer's Forum at ANA, but it was also suggested that we select those actually in the field AND associated with the numismatic press as such.

Hence, the names of Chet Krause, Clff Mishler, Ken Bressett, Margo Russell, Russell Rulau, Thom Marshall, James Miller were proposed and they have accepted. Since the questions will revolve around...'just what are the numismatic news media looking for in the way of articles....what constitutes an original story....original research...etc.'.

In this way we will take our 'ordinary members off the hook as the replies can be considered as representing the Press itself---editors, regular columnists, publishers and the like.

Best wishes and kindest personal regards,

Cordially,

Ray

Ray

O.T.A.C.S.: L.M. 297, A.N.A.: A. N. S.: F. R.N.S.: N.L.G.: O.I.N.: A.N.E.: T.A.M.S.: A.V.A.: B.N.S.:

FROM THE DESK OF

RAY BYRNE
701 NO. NEGLEY AVE.
PITTSBURGH, PENNA. 15206
(412) 441-0738

11/27/73

Dear Eric

I was most remiss during your visit here but had expected that the official family (officers of A.N.A.) had requested you to address us & your travel expenses.

Please send me a bill or letter so that I may reimburse you for same.

My heart felt thanks for your visit and wonderful talk to our group - Ray

(WEST INDIAN & CARIBBEAN ISLANDS COINS & TOKENS)
(AUTHOR & RESEARCH NUMISMATIST)

November 30, 1973

Dear Sarann and Jim,

I want to express my appreciation of your customary kindness in taking care of me while I was in Pittsburgh. Being treated to breakfast in a manner to which I am unaccustomed was the only point at which I felt I was other than one of the family. I enjoyed meeting your friends and making the medical and antique rounds. You produce southern hospitality in its grandest tradition. I am hopeful that you will wander through St. Louis so that you may share our home and see how we live.

Thank you again for your kindness.

Mr. and Mrs. James Sloss
1425 Third Street
Beaver, Pennsylvania

Dear Evelyn,

Jim and I hope that you shall be able to come with Eric on the six-teenth or seventeenth and that both of you will stay with us. We would like so much

VIRGINIA CARDINALS

to have you. We're looking forward to seeing you both.

Sincerely,

Nov. 5 Sarann Sloas

VIRGINIA CARDINALS originally embroidered in crewel by Catherine Davis Bryan of Hampton, Virginia - 1970.

Creators of the World's Finest Note Stationery
Bright of America®
300 Greenbrier Road
Summersville, West Virginia 26651

December 3, 1973

Mr. Ray Byrne
701 No. Negley Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15206

Dear Ray:

It was a pleasure to address your group, and I enjoyed my visit to Pittsburgh. The round trip from St. Louis to Pittsburgh cost $76.27, and to and from the St. Louis Airport was $6.00, for a total of $82.27. Please make check payable to Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society.

Kindest regards,

Eric P. Newman

EPN:jah

From the desk of
ERIC P. NEWMAN

Copy Sent to Sømod in Denmark. Byrne bad editor to contact Swedish Numismatic Journal. JC 16 Sept 77

Ray Byrne
Apt. 516, 2649 Florida Blvd.
Delray Beach, Florida 33444

P.O.Drawer W.,
Delray Beach,Fl.
33444. U.S.A.

9-14-77

Off the record —

Dear Margo:

Since you have a copy of Mr. Jørgen Sømod's letter addressed to "Coin World" and relating to certain allegations on coins from my sale catlog, I am enclosing a copy of my reply being sent to Mr. Frank Olrog so that the Swedish Numismatic Journal in which Mr. Sømod's "stpry' is to appear, can have my letter on hand. I do not know Mr. Somod's address but Frank is very closely allied to the Swedish Society and will handle this matter appropriately.

The statement's in Mr. Sømod's letter, are, indeed disturbing in that they are made without any substantiating evidence or reference to any document that would support such allegations.

I am, under the conditios now at hand, not indicative to have my reply in print, other than in the Swedish Numismatic Journal alongside the letter received from Mr. Sømod.

All the best and regards

Ray

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Now to the counterstamps placed on these coins for legal circulation in the D.W.I. In a large and immediate process of this nature, it would be most difficult to imagine that but a single die punch would be employed. No doubt that several punches were created to expedite this task. In close examination of the fairly large collection of these stamped coins which I had accumulated over many years, there was apparent a very minute number of variations in the counterstamps themselves caused, no doubt, by the metallurgical problems in producing absolutely identical punches and also due to the type and metal content of the struck pieces. You may also note that I had,over the years, carefully eliminated the obvious forgeries of the counterstamps that appeared (see "The Nobles and the Rogues, Numismatist, May, 1967.)

In conclusion, your assumptions that; 1. all coins used in this 1849-1859 local experiment were strictly United States coins is without basis of fact. 2. Your assertion that certain lots, not illustrated in the catalog, since they were of foreign production, were also false, is, I believe,presumptious.

Original Copy:

RAY BYRNE

P.O.Drawer W.,
Delray Beach,Fl.
33444. U.S.A.

A REPLY TO LETTER BY Mr. Jørgen Sømod

Dear Mr. Sømod:

A copy of your proposed article to appear in the "Swedish Numismatic Journal" relating to certain theories you have and including notes on coins of the Danish West Indies from my sale of West Indies Coins & Tokens as sold by Jess Peters,June 1975, is at hand.

May I advise that the Danes, as colonists in the West Indies, purchased silver and copper coins as bullion based on the intrinsic value of such bulk purchases. These were to be used, following the striking of such whole pieces with the imprimatur of Frederick VII and related in local exchange to the monies of account to the motherland and the United States. At this period in history, all foreign coins passed current in the United States along with the small amount of United States coins then in circulation and did so for quite a few years following the passage of the monetary law of 1857 when it was declared that only U.S. coins could, in the future, be accepted as specie payment in the States. The United States, in her early history, also had a dearth of small coins for local exchange.

The act, adopted by the Danes in the West Indies and approved by the homeland, in 1849 permitted the purchase of bullion coins due to the extreme necessity of such monies. Thus, the local officials went to the open market for such purchases and the coins forwarded from the United States were a mixed lot of U.S. and such foreign coins as would make up the value necessary for said purchases. The local edict did not specify that only United States coins could be used for the purposes at hand during the period 1849-1859 at which time the homeland did strike a specific coinage for the Danish West Indies. Hence, U.S., Spanish, English, French, Portugese, Mexican, etc. coins were employed to alleviate the shortage created by a lack of change in these Danish possessions. The monies then used, regardless of their origin, could be exchanged in trade agreements with the local government, merchants, etc. and the United States. Thus, you theory that only U.S. coins were used in this economic experiment is, indeed, false.

Now to the counterstamps placed on these coins for legal circulation in the D.W.I. In a large and immediate process of this nature, it would be most difficult to imagine that but a single die punch would be employed. No doubt that several punches were created to expedite this task. In close examination of the fairly large collection of these stamped coins which I had accumulated over many years, there was apparent a very minute number of variations in the counterstamps themselves caused, no doubt, by the metallurgical problems in producing absolutely identical punches and also due to the type and metal content of the struck pieces. You may also note that I had,over the years, carefully eliminated the obvious forgeries of the counterstamps that appeared (see "The Nobles and the Rogues, Numismatist, May, 1967.)

In conclusion, your assumptions that; 1. all coins used in this 1849-1859 local experiment were strictly United States coins is without basis of fact. 2. Your assertion that certain lots, not illustrated in the catalog, since they were of foreign production, were also false, is, I believe,presumptious.

wo....Reply to Mr. Jørgen Sømod

Your remarks with regards to the Lots, 400, 1073 & 1239 are well taken, but evidently you had not learned that these lots were announced, prior to the sale as being mis-attributed and were offered for what they were and not as guaranteed Danish West Indies items.

I should be delighted, if you have in your possession and would be willing to pass along a copy of same, any edict or official government document issued in the islands during the year 1849 which stipulates that all coins to be purchased for counterstamping in the island possessions were to be solely United States coins, then this would certainly be most helpful in clearing up this disagreement.

You may be assured that no sincere numismatist or researcher would intentionally 'create' or disseminate such false pieces nor information relating to such items that would confuse the collector. After many years of effort to aid in the correcting of past errors regarding this dangerous series of West Indian coinage I consider myself in this category and I know, from your excellent reputation, that you too are a dedicated numismatist with a purpose of unveiling the truth.

Respectfully submitted,

Ray Byrne